UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. MOHR

DATE: 12/9/63

FROM : C. D. DE LOACH

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

Nick Katzenbach, the Deputy Attorney General, called me at 11:00 A.M., this morning, and asked that I come around to his office.

Upon seeing Katzenbach, he made reference to the proposed press release which the White House had originally planned to issue over the weekend in connection with the captioned matter. (The Director instructed we advise Katzenbach that we strongly felt that only the first paragraph of this release should be issued, or the first three paragraphs of the revised release which Mr. Belmont read to the Director on Saturday.) Katzenbach told me that there was a stalemate at the White House in connection with this release. Abe Fortas strongly felt that the entire release should be given to the press. Ted Sorenson agreed with us that only the first three paragraphs of the revised release prepared Saturday should be given out. Fortas believed that speculation, rumors and gossip should be disspelled right now. He claimed it made no difference that the Presidential Commission would present findings to the President and the general public. He felt rumors concerning collusion between Ruby and Oswald, also those concerning international conspiracy, should be hit hard now.

As a result of the disagreement between Fortas and Sorenson, there will be no press release from the White House. To get his point across, however, Katzenbach has prepared a letter to Chief Justice Warren and each Commission member transmitting a copy of the report. The report will be delivered today. In his letter, Katzenbach states that the report is being delivered at the instructions of the President. He also calls upon the Commission to quickly issue a statement concerning its findings so that rumors, gossip and speculation can be eliminated. He goes on to point out that investigation thus far has nailed down the point that Oswald assassinated the President and had no assistance. He further mentions that Ruby operated strictly as an individual and had no assistance. He points out there is no evidence of collusion or international intrigue.

Katzenbach asked me if the FBI could deliver these reports. I told him we could not, that it was our position that the reports are now out of our hands and delivery

ORIGINAL FILED IN

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Evans
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. M. A. Jones
CDD:hif (7)

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5 DEC 17 1963

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should be handled by the Department. He asked if we could package them for him inasmuch as he had no facilities for doing this. I told him I thought our Mail Room could handle this chore for him. He then stated that he had no way in which to deliver the report to John J. McCloy, the Commission member in New York. He wondered if the FBI could handle this for him. He added that each report would, of course, have his letter transmitting the report as an attachment to the package; therefore, the package actually would be coming from him and not the FBI. I told him I would check on this angle and let him know.

Katzenbach has requested 11 copies of the report from us. Seven of these copies will go to Presidential Commission members, as he promised last Friday, 12/6/63. One copy of the report will go to the Chief Counsel of the Commission, presumably Lee Rankin. The Department desires two copies and Katzenbach wants to give Secret Service one copy, making a total of 11 copies needed.

ACTION:

(1) That we package the copies for Katzenbach and have them delivered to his office. (Mr. Belmont advises there are sufficient copies.)

OK. Done 12/9

(2) That we turn over to Katzenbach ten copies of the report, it being noted that the Department already has one copy.

OK. Done 12/9 @ 4:55 p.m.

(3) That we tell Katzenbach that we are charging him with the safety and handling of these reports inasmuch as we have discharged our duties, other than the continuing investigation. It is further suggested we tell him that we have no objections to the Secret Service receiving a copy of the report; however, this, of course, is up to Katzenbach inasmuch as he is charged with the safety of a specific number of reports.

OK. Done 12/9

(CONTINUED)

Memorandum Mr. DeLoach to Mr. Mohr
Re: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

ACTION (continued):

(4) That we tell Katzenbach that under the circumstances we will have our New York Office deliver a copy of the report to John J. McCloy.